

## Capstone 1 Project: “Paragraph a Day”

Project Goal: This site would provide writers with a tool for daily writing practice. The title of the site would be “Paragraph a Day,” which I believe is a catchy name that captures the gist of the site, but the user would be welcome to write their content in any form (e.g. it could be a poem, a list of ideas, or any other form of writing). The site would include a couple of helpful features that address common obstacles. First, the site would provide a daily writing prompt in the form of an image. Having a prompt takes the pressure off the user to come up with their own topic/inspiration, and using an image helps set this app apart from other writing tools that typically provide a text prompt (e.g. a quote, a question, a topic). Second, the site would provide a limited space to the user for their writing, such as a 100 word limit. This would also be designed to reduce pressure on the writer, since many writers feel intimidated by larger projects and goals, making it daunting to get started and put that first word on the page. Third, in addition to allowing users to save their writing for future review/edit, the site would allow users to choose whether or not to share their writing with others on the site through a public feed. This would allow users to see how others were inspired by the daily image, and to get practice sharing their own writing. However, unlike sites that allow users to like or comment on others' posts, this would be a no-judgment site, to further reduce pressure and increase comfort/motivation for the writer.

Users: Users of the site would be writers who want to make a regular practice of writing, but who have trouble getting started due to a lack of inspiration, or feeling daunted by the size of their existing projects and goals. Users would ideally be writers who like the idea of sharing ideas and inspiration with others, but who are not looking for critique or comparison, and who are not looking to “socially network” through the site. These are writers who want to focus on their commitment to a regular writing practice, not on improving their writing or getting approval/exposure for their writing.

Data: I would like to use the Unsplash API to retrieve daily images for the site. The rest of the data in the app would be user-generated (e.g. their registration information, their writing content).

Approach: The database would include two models, one for users and one for “paragraphs.” The user would, at a minimum, have a username and a password though I might come up with other attributes to add. The “paragraph” model would include an id, a title, the content, the date the paragraph was created, a URL to the image that inspired the paragraph, and a boolean for whether the user wanted the post to be private or public. There would be a SQLAlchemy “relationship” established between the two models. The only sensitive information I would need to secure would be the password, which I would hash using bcrypt. When a visitor goes to the home page, they would first see the daily image, along with a feed of “paragraphs” written so far in response to that image. There would also be a way for visitors to view the feed from previous day(s), perhaps by entering a date into a form, so they can get a feel for the variety of images and writing being published on the site. After logging in, they would have the option to submit a response to the day's image and/or navigate to their user detail page, with links to each of their paragraphs, each of which would also have its detail page, with the option to edit or delete. I would make sure only the logged in user can make changes to their paragraph, and I would provide feedback to users who try to do otherwise. One stretch goal I have is to give users the option to sign up for a reminder email, and to set their frequency preference for that reminder.